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ACTION OCS-06

INFO LOG-00 AF-01 AMAD-01 CA-02 OASY-00 DS-00 TEDE-00
ADS-00 SSO-00 ASDS-01 /011W
-----295EA1 251906Z /38

R 251525Z FEB 94
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5819
INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS KIGALI 00831

DEPT FOR CA/OCS/EMR, OPERATIONS CENTER, AND AF/C

BUJUMBURA FOR RSO

NAIROBI FOR RCO

E.O. 12356:N/A
TAGS: CASC, ASEC, RW
SUBJECT: CONSULAR SERVICES PROVIDED TO AMCITS DURING
RECENT VIOLENCE IN RWANDA

REF: A) KIGALI 792 AND B) KIGALI 784
C) MR. MOLLEL - DAR ES SALAAM - OPERATIONS CENTER
- KIGALI TELCON OF 2/22

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1. IN RESPONSE TO HEIGHTENED INSECURITY JUST BEFORE AND
FOLLOWING THE ASSASSINATIONS OF TWO POLITICAL LEADERS
(REFTELS A AND B), EMBASSY EMERGENCY ACTION COMMITTEE
(EAC) MET 2/22, 2/23 AND 2/24. AT THE EAC'S REQUEST,
PSO AND CONOFF ACTIVATED BOTH THE OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE
AMERICAN WARDEN NETS SEVERAL TIMES TO PROVIDE THE AMCIT
COMMUNITY WITH SECURITY UPDATES. EMBASSY STAFF ALSO
FIELDLED OVER ONE HUNDRED CALLS DAY AND NIGHT OVER THE
PAST WEEK WITH REPORTS OF VIOLENCE IN KIGALI,
RUHENGARI, BUTARE AND CYANGUGU. ALL REPORTS AND
INFORMATION WERE RELAYED TO UNAMIR AND THE GENDARMERIE

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FOR FOLLOW-UP.

2. IN ADDITION TO THE CONTACT WITH THE ESTABLISHED PRIVATE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN RWANDA, THE AMBASSADOR AND CONOFF ALSO ASSISTED SEVERAL AMERICAN TOURISTS WHO WERE STRANDED AFTER THE KENYA AIRWAYS FLIGHT WAS CANCELLED. WITH A LETTER TO AIR FRANCE, THE AMBASSADOR GOT ELEVEN AMERICANS ON AN OVERBOOKED AIR FRANCE FLIGHT OUT OF RWANDA TO KENYA ON 2/22. CONOFF ALSO ASSISTED TWO BACKPACKERS IN GETTING RESERVATIONS TO BUJUMBURA WHEN TRAVEL OVERLAND FROM KIGALI WAS NOT SAFE AND NO TRAVEL AGENCIES WERE OPEN TO PURCHASE AIRLINE TICKETS. CONOFF ALSO PROVIDED SECURITY UPDATES TO CONCERNED AMERICAN TOURISTS IN BOTH THE MERIDIEN AND MILLES COLLINES HOTELS, BY INCLUDING THE INITIALLY UNREGISTERED TOURISTS IN THE PRIVATE WARDEN NET.

3. COMMENT: WHEN TENSIONS FLARED IN RWANDA THIS WEEK, THERE WERE AN UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER OF AMERICAN TOURISTS IN TOWN, MOST OF WHOM WERE UNAWARE OF THE
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PRECARIOUS POLITICAL SITUATION. CONOFF DEVOTED EXTRA TIME TO THESE TOURISTS TO EASE THEIR CONCERNS AND PROVIDE THEM WITH SECURITY UPDATES IN ADDITION TO THOSE PROVIDED TO THE ESTABLISHED AMERICAN COMMUNITY. ALSO TO CORRECT THE RECORD: MR. MOLLEL REGRETTED THAT HIS MESSAGE (REF C) HAD BEEN INCORRECTLY RELAYED BY HIS REPRESENTATIVES IN ARUSHA TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN DAR ES SAALAM, AND THEN ON TO THE OPERATIONS CENTER, AS REGARDING AN AMERICAN NEEDING ASSISTANCE RATHER THAN AN AMERICAN EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE. RAWSON

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